

Claims

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A knee brace comprising:

a support member having an upper cuff portion and a lower cuff portion, the upper cuff portion adapted to be secured adjacent a thigh of a user, and the lower cuff portion adapted to be secured about a tibia of the user and, the upper cuff portion or the lower cuff portion having a back plate;

a hinge connecting the upper cuff portion and the lower cuff portion, the hinge located proximate to the knee joint of the user; and

a resilient liner having a plurality of discrete liner segments, wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments is adapted to conform to the body portion of the user to which the support member is secured, and wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments is attached to the back plate.

44. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein the back plate comprises a receptacle formed therein, and wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments has an attachment member removably received in the receptacle.

45. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments attached to the back plate has an adjustable shape.

46. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 45 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments further comprises a pair of adjustable segment portions.

47. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 46 wherein each of the pair of adjustable segment portions is individually adjustable.

48. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 47 wherein the pair of adjustable segment portions comprises a pair of cam portions defining a tibial crest groove therebetween,

the pair of cam portions being individually adjustable on either side of the tibial crest groove to conform to a particular shape of the user's tibia and/or maintain the tibia in a desired position.

49. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 48 wherein the pair of cam portions is individually movable in a direction in toward the user's tibia, and a direction out away from the user's tibia.

50. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 47 wherein the pair of adjustable segment portions comprise a pair of pad portions spaced apart to define a tibial crest groove therebetween, the pair of pad portions being individually adjustable on either side of the tibial crest groove to conform to a particular shape of the user's tibia and/or maintain the tibia in a desired position.

51. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 50 wherein the pair of pad portions are individually movable in a direction in toward the user's tibia, and out away therefrom, and are rotatable clockwise or counter-clockwise.

52. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 50 wherein at least one of the pair of pad portions further has an adjustable size.

53. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 52 wherein at least one of the pair of pad portions is inflatable and/or deflatable to provide the adjustable size.

54. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 46 further comprising a spacer provided intermediate to at least one of the pair of adjustable segment portions and the back plate.

55. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 54 wherein the spacer comprises a wedge shaped chock.

56. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 55 wherein the chock is removably securable between at least one of the pair of adjustable segment portions and the back plate.

57. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 54 wherein the spacer has an adjustable size.

58. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 57 wherein the spacer is inflatable and/or deflatable to provide the adjustable size.

59. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments has an adjustable shape and/or an adjustable size.

60. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 59 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments further comprises a pair of segment portions, at least one of the pair of segment portions being movable to provide the adjustable shape.

61. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 59 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments is inflatable and/or deflatable to provide the adjustable size.

62. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the discrete liner segments is removably attached to the lower cuff by a hook and loop fastener system.

63. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments comprises an electrode portion operably connected to a source of electrical power to impart therapeutic stimulation to an associated body portion of the user.

64. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein the support member is semi-rigid.

65. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments comprises a micro-porous waterproof cover material contacting the body portion of the user.

66. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments conforms to the shape of a thigh and a calf of the user as the knee brace is secured to the user.

67. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 64 wherein the support member comprises a thermoplastic material and a deformable metallic material such that the support member is generally conformable to a leg of the user.

68. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein the upper cuff comprises a first strap for securing the upper cuff to a thigh of the user and the lower cuff comprises a second strap for securing the lower cuff adjacent to a calf of the user.

69. (Previously presented) The knee brace of claim 43 wherein at least one of the plurality of discrete liner segments is removable, and the at least one removable liner segment is adapted to be secured between at least one of the upper cuff and a thigh of the user and the lower cuff and a calf of the user.